John Lougee

Born: 2 April 1896
Loa, Wayne, Utah

Parents: Darius Charles Lougee
Emily Gambling

Married: Sarah Estelle Clegg
13 June 1925
Dubois, Clark, Idaho

Died: 28 January 1955
Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Moved to Idaho

John (known to his family as Jack) was born in Loa, Wayne, Utah. When he was one year old, his parents moved with him and his older brother, Tom to Bear Lake County, Idaho. When they moved they left two sons and a daughter buried in Wayne County.

Mother's Sickness

When Jack was about five years old, his mother had a mental break down. Family members took care of the two younger children (Lee and Mae) but Tom (about seven years old) and Jack stayed at home with their father. The father cooked and took care of the two little boys. Jack was not much trouble but Tom would try to run away. His father had to tie him up in order to get his chores done. Jack could go to his Grandfather Gambling's to visit but Tom was hard to handle so Grandmother Gambling didn't want him to come.

Finally their mother was well enough to come back home.

Performer

When Jack was a small boy, they went to church and school in the same building. They had a lot of church socials in the ward. They would put Jack upon a chair and have him recite a reading. In those days the women wore dresses that had hooks instead of buttons. At the last of each verse he would say, "I'd rather smother than to hook my mother up the back." He was good at reciting.

Characteristics

Jack was a very bright child. He was very independent and he wanted nothing from anyone. He was lover of nature.

Games, Chores and other Activities of Childhood

He was a whiz at checkers. He liked to play with his sisters, Esther and Ruth. He sometimes lost to Esther but Ruth always lost. He played other games and he went fishing in the creek near their home. In the winter he skated on the pond and slid down the hill back of the school. He liked to go picking huckleberries. Not so much to pick berries but to roam the hills.

Jack spent a good share of his time with his grandparents doing odd jobs around the place like herding cows. He would sit down along the haystack chewing his cud with the cows. He was really happy doing that.

He liked to lie down and watch the white clouds sail by.

He helped weed the garden and worked for a few cents. He weeded the garden at home also.

Experimenter and Inventor

Jack's mother had a hard time keeping her clocks away from him. When one came up missing, she would say, "That darn boy, I can't keep a clock around this place." She looked and looked and finally found the pieces tied up in a rag. He had taken the clock to pieces and couldn't find places for all the pieces to fit in putting it back together.

In his adult life, he invented a number of items that were used in his work. One of them was the air wrench. Another was called "Holder, Generator". He was given a $10.00 award for that. He was quite well known for the things he invented.

Peacemaker

Jack was a peacemaker. He hated fuss. He got along well with the family. He would never argue with Tom to make him mad. If an argument started, he would get up and leave. Mae was easily stirred up and he avoided any arguments with her at all costs.

When his sister Ruth came home at age eleven after having lived with the Grandparents for most of her life, Jack made the move easier for her. The other brothers, Tom and Lee would tease her but Jack would tell them to leave her alone. Jack was always kind to Ruth.

School Days

Jack's school days were spent in a tall one-room schoolhouse. The little children went about two and one-half months in the spring and two and one-half months in the fall. The older children went in the winter months. The schoolhouse had a big potbelly stove and a dipper for a drinking fountain. The students carried their lunch in lard pails.

Jack had some men teachers that were pretty rough. One would use a stick.

The family lived about a mile from school. Some rode horses to school. Later Jack's father built a house close to the school.

Jack did well in school. Jack loved to read

He finished his district school in Paris, Idaho where he went to the Fielding Academy for high school. He boarded with a family in Paris and went home every weekend.

Jack and His Mother

When Jack was about 18 years, he came in the house one day with a big hole in the crotch of his pants and asked his mother to patch them. After Jack had gone to bed, his mother gathered up a spool of course black thread and a darning needle to fix the problem. She found a bright red piece of outing flannel material to use as a patch. She cut off a big hunk and sewed a piece in the crotch of Jack's overalls. The next morning Jack put on his trousers, put his hands over the fire to warm and proceeded to tease his mother about her choice of cloth. He liked to tease his mother but in a gentle way. Emily explained as best she could. Jack giggled. He went out to the hay field wearing the patch.

Jack and his mother had a special understanding. She loved her other children but she saved that one special spot in her heart for Jack and he had a high regard for her. She liked poetry so Jack sent her several books.

When Emily had raisins she had to hide them because Jack kept stealing the raisins. She chased him off with a broomstick. She didn't care where she hit either. Jack was glad to leave.

The First World War

Jack's brother, Tom was on a mission in Louisiana and his brother, Lee wasn't old enough. Jack was called up for the army. Except for a few crooked teeth and small size, he passed the tests with flying colors. If he had been a few inches shorter he would have been turned down. He was inducted into the army on October 2, 1917 at Paris, Idaho. At induction his age and place of birth was given as: 21 years, 5 months; Loa, Utah; character: excellent.

He was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington for training (later known as Fort Lewis). Jack trained at Camp Lewis until late May or June 1918 when he left there to go overseas.

Jack sailed from the United States on July 6, 1918. He fought in one defensive battle – Aubreville and then to an offensive battle – Ypres-Lys.

The last battle of the war began on September 26, 1918. It was the Meuse-Argonne Battle. Jack fought in this battle from September 26 until September 29 when he was wounded in action while serving as a Private in Company B of the 361 Infantry.

Jack was in the hospital in France from the end of September 1918 until about April 1, 1919. When word reached the family that he was wounded in combat, they went around the house like zombies. In a short time they learned that he was in the hospital in France with a piece of lead in his back. The wound was from a piece of shrapnel that entered his side and came out near the spine in the back.

Jack arrived back in the United States on April 15, 1919 and was discharged April 28, 1919. There was a lot of shouting and singing when he got off the train as he returned home.

He received a Certificate of Appreciation from the people of Bear Lake County, Idaho which read: *To John Lougee, as a tangible symbol of our profound esteem and appreciation and in acknowledgment of the self-sacrifice which you so heroically made at the call of patriotic duty, we proffer this humble tribute. May it every represent to you our deep and lasting gratitude for the price that you so nobly paid toward the purchase of WORLD FREEDOM. Presented under the seal of said county the 12th day of July 1919.* Three County Commissioners and the County Clerk signed it.

College

Jack decided that he wanted to go to College in Logan, Utah. The Government would pay his way because of his wound. He graduated from Utah State Agricultural College with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture on May 31, 1924.

Courtship and marriage

Jack met Sarah Estelle Clegg when he went to visit his sister, Mae, who was married to Stella's brother, Joseph Clegg.

Stella wrote: "I really liked him and he seemed to like me. When he went back to work out at Rockford, Idaho on a farm, he started to write to me and soon asked me to marry him, which I consented to do."

After they were married in Dubois, Idaho they went to Rockford to live in a two-room house. Horses had been living in the house. Jack cleaned it all out and they got an old rusty stove and paint to blacken it with.

Tithing

Times were hard during the great depression. They moved to Dubois and got a small house to live in but Jack didn't have work. They had ten dollars left. Stella said to Jack, "Let's pay that ten dollars for tithing." He did and that same day he got a job in Monida, Idaho.

Temple Sealing

Jack and Stella went to the temple in Logan, Utah and were sealed as husband and wife on June 16, 1926. At that time they had their two children, Rulen and Norma sealed to them also.

Employment

Jack worked on the railroad section in Monida. He cleaned the railroad switches.

After going back to school at Rexburg, Jack got his teacher's certificate. He taught school in Roberts, Idaho, Oragora, Idaho, and in Pegram, Idaho. He got jobs on farms during the summer time.

Later he worked for the W.P.A.

When World War II broke out, Jack went back to school at Utah State Agricultural College and received training for a job at Hill Field Army Air Base. They lived in Logan while this took place but moved to Layton, Utah as soon as housing could be arranged.

The type of work that he trained for and went to work at Hill Field doing was in the field of electronics. He also went to Philadelphia for several weeks for additional training. He started repairing radios in B-17

bombers. After the war, he overhauled carburetors, starters, and things like that. It was while working at Hill Field that he invented several tools. He was the foreman on the job.

Church Callings

He served as Sunday School Superintendent in Dubois. At the time of his death, he held the office of Seventy and was a stake missionary.

Gardener

In Layton there was quite a large plot of ground developed in the housing area that was set aside for gardens. If you wanted a garden, a plot was assigned to you. Jack always grew a good garden. You could tell which was his plot. It stood out from the others because of the straight rows and it had no weeds. He grew many different types of vegetables. He liked to experiment with new varieties. He was a frustrated farmer who took his liking for the soil into his garden. He spent many hours there and raised such beautiful harvests.

Characteristics, Hobbies and Interests

Jack always had a book to read. Usually it was a big history book. He knew history really well. He also liked mystery stories. He was always studying something – his mind was never idle.

He liked to play pinochle and was an expert at checkers.

He was sharp with numbers and was a sociable-type person. He liked to visit people.

He liked to cook – calf brains were one of his specialties – and the vegetables from his garden were others. He was not inclined to help with housework or with the children.

Jack liked family reunions and thought highly of his relatives.

He liked camping and hiking in the hills around Sharon, Idaho.

He had a good sense of humor.

Description

Jack had brown hair until it turned gray. He was 21 years old when he started going bald. He had green eyes and was 5 feet and 5 inches tall.

Heart Attacks and Death

He had his first heart attack in the fall of 1950. He recovered and went back to work. He suffered his second heart attack in January 1955 and died in the Veteran's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah on January 28, 1955.

Children and Their Memories of Their Father

John Rulen: I had the impression that he had a lot of knowledge. He was reading all the time. He had a curious mind. He was the only one of that family that got an education. [His family] were sort of backward, calm, and shy and lived up there in the mountains. Dad was a little different. He was "up-town" people. He escaped the place. I think he was the brain of the bunch – probably the most intelligent of the boys or had the best aptitude. I got the feeling that he was very intelligent. If he didn't know, he wanted to find out – he was curious. He wanted to learn things.

Norma Joyce: To describe my Father's personality is hard. He was cheerful most of the time and fun to be around. He loved to read, especially history. He was a hard, conscientious worker and quite intelligent. He graduated from college at a time when not many graduated from high school. He liked to invent things. He liked to tease people. He had a quick, rather violent temper, which was short lived. He often felt sorry for his out bursts after he had said or done something he shouldn't have. He liked to walk fast and to wander around town talking to people.

Stella Murel: He was rather hard to really know. I feel he was rather a shy person. He'd do anything to make a living for his family. He could also be a tease. He was honest and very dependable. He didn't have any athletic talents and was a bit self-conscience. He didn't have any singing talents either.

Donald Earl: As I think about my Dad, he never talked about the church a whole lot but he was a good man and he gave to me the feeling that he knew the church was true. When I think of my Dad, I think of bib overalls and a grin.

When Don visited with him in the hospital before he died, he was alert and told Don that he loved him.

Lucille Emily

Shirley Faye

Deborah Lavoun: I admired Dad's intelligence and his sense of humor. I remember being proud that I had such a smart Father. I admired him and loved him a great deal.

Joanne

Tribute to Jack

He was short in stature but big in heart and brains. Jack was a diamond in the rough. He was well liked by the men and was shy of women. He was more interested in ideas than in things. He was always thinking about how to work something out.

Sources:

Information came from Thomas Lougee, Esther Lougee Clegg, Ruth Lougee Buhler, Sarah Estelle Clegg Lougee, Rulen Lougee, Norma Lougee Waddoups, Murel Lougee Ebert, Donald Lougee, Shirley Lougee, and Lavoun Lougee West